

CLAIMS:

- 5           1. A filter assembly comprising  
          a plastics housing providing an inlet port and an  
          outlet port, the material of the housing being such that the  
          assembly can be sterilized by subjecting the interior of the  
          housing to steam under pressure while the exterior of the  
10   housing is at atmospheric pressure without damaging the  
          housing,  
          a filter element held in the housing and comprising  
          a filter medium of water wettable material having  
          a central passage extending between first and second ends of  
15   the filter medium,  
          the first end of the filter medium being embedded  
          in a first end cap of a plastics material at a first joint  
          to close said passage and the second end of the filter  
          medium being embedded in a second end cap of a plastics  
20   material at a second joint, wherein the characteristics of  
          the filter medium at the joints are not materially changed,  
          said second end cap providing a fluid connection  
          between said passage and one of said ports,  
          the first and second end caps forming respective  
25   water-wettable joints with the filter medium.